

Message Text

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21

ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-20

IGA-01 /074 W

----- 125967

R 100956Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4728

INFO DEPCMACHTHAI UDORN

DIA WASHDC

17TH AD DET 1 UDORN

17TH AD DET OL1B NKP

13TH AF CC CLARK

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

COMIPAC

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES GROUP BKK

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 4759

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, MASS, LA

SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH MINISTER OF DEFENSE ON MILITARY
ASSISTANCE

1. NEW MINDEF PHENG PHONGSAVAN ASKED ME TO CALL ON HIM
LATE MORNING JULY 10. HE EXPLAINED HE HAD INVITED ME AT
DIRECTION OF PRIMIN. YESTERDAY CABINET HAD DISCUSSED RICE
WHICH HAD BEEN SUPPLIED TO MILITARY BY USAID AND PRIMIN
WANTED TO KNOW WHETHER WE COULD HELP.

2. I SAID THAT FIRST OF ALL USAID HAD NOTHING TO DO
WITH MILITARY ASSISTANCE, OF WHICH RICE WAS LARGE COMPONENT.
MAP HAD BEEN DISPENSED BY DAO. HOWEVER, IN CONFORMITY WITH
NOTE OF JUNE 26 FROM MFA WE HAD NO ASSISTANCE PERSONNEL,
CIVILIAN OR MILITARY, LEFT IN COUNTRY. HE HAD NOT KNOWN
THESE POINTS. SECONDLY, I SAID THAT FOR JUNE WE HAD
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MADE DELIVERIES OF RICE AND POL TO VIENTIANE, BUT THAT

THAI TRUCKERS HAD REFUSED TO MAKE DELIVERIES IN THAKHEK, SAVANNAKHET AND PAKSE WITHOUT ADEQUATE SECURITY GUARANTEES. THIS QUESTION HAD BEEN DISCUSSED SOME TIME AGO BY DAO OFFICERS WITH GENERAL SOURITH AND COL. SINOUVAN, AND DAO OFFICERS HAD SUGGESTED A MEETING WITH THE TRUCKERS. THIS SUGGESTION HAD NOT BEEN FOLLOWED. THIRDLY, I SAID WE WERE PREPARED TO MAKE DELIVERIES ALSO THIS MONTH OF RICE AND POL, BUT I THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE ABOUT ALL.

3. PHENG PROBED. HE ASKED WHETHER ALL 75 FUNDS HAD BEEN EXPENDED AND WHAT ABOUT MEDICINE AND UNIFORMS? I SAID I WAS IGNORANT ABOUT THE DETAILS, BUT IT WAS MY UNDERSTANDING ALL 75 FUNDS FOR MEDICINE AND UNIFORMS HAD BEEN EXPENDED. PHENG SAID HE THOUGHT THAT WE HAD LARGE BALANCE LEFT UNSPENT. I ANSWERED THAT UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES OF PEACE AND INTEGRATION, WE FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO JUSTIFY FURTHER MILITARY ASSISTANCE. HE SAID THIS WAS TRUE, BUT THIS WAS DIFFICULT TRANSITION PERIOD. "EVERYONE WAS ATTENDING SEMINARS," (INFERRING THAT NOT MUCH WORK WAS BEING DONE). THEY WOULD NEED HELP PERHAPS UNTIL THE END OF THE YEAR. I REPEATED THAT WE WERE PREPARED TO DELIVER RICE AND SOME POL THIS MONTH. WE MIGHT PERHAPS BE ABLE TO PROVIDE SOME RICE NEXT MONTH, BUT I WAS NOT AT ALL SURE ON THIS POINT.

4. HE RAISED QUESTION OF FURTHER ASSISTANCE AGAIN. THIS GAVE ME OPPORTUNITY TO GO OVER ALL OUR PAST AND PRESENT DIFFICULTIES. I POINTED OUT THAT THESE HAD NOT PASSED UNNOTICED IN WASHINGTON AND HAD CREATED A RATHER POOR CLIMATE. I MENTIONED THAT THE NOTES WE HAD RECEIVED FROM THE MFA WERE RATHER SEVERE. HE APPEARED INTERESTED AND NOT TO KNOW THE DETAILS OF THESE EVENTS. HE INDICATED IN SOMEWHAT UNCLEAR FASHION THAT PRIMIN HAD ASKED HIM TO BE IN TOUCH WITH US ON PROBLEMS. I SAID I WOULD WELCOME BEING ABLE TO TALK TO ANYONE WHO HAD THE AUTHORITY TO SETTLE THESE PROBLEMS. IN MY VIEW THESE COULD BE EASILY SOLVED.

5. PHENG TOOK ALL THIS IN QUITE CALMLY AND WE AGREED THAT WE WOULD BE BACK IN TOUCH WITH COL. SINOVAN, HIS ATTACHE DE CABINET, ON THE KIND OF GUARANTEES THAT WOULD SATISFY THE THAI TRUCKERS. PHENG SAID THAT "HIS SECRETARY

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OF STATE" KHAMOUANE BOUPA WOULD BE PREPARED TO SIGN A LETTER OF GUARANTEE.

6. COMMENT: THE MIN OF DEF MUST NOW HAVE A CLEAR VIEW OF THE PROSPECTS FOR MAP.
CHAPMAN

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NNN

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